

Efforts are being made in the direction of a gradual reduction of the number of contract schools, so that in a comparatively short time they may give way altogether to government schools. It is believed that the change may be so gradual as to be perfected without too great expense to the government or undue disruption of the schools. The number of contract schools at the close of the year ending June 30, 1895, was 1,000, and the number of pupils was 10,000. The number of contract schools at the close of the year ending June 30, 1896, was 1,000, and the number of pupils was 10,000.

#### On the Pension Rolls.

At the close of the last fiscal year, on the 30th day of June, 1894, there were 100,000 persons on the pension rolls. The number of persons on the pension rolls at the close of the year ending June 30, 1895, was 100,000. The number of persons on the pension rolls at the close of the year ending June 30, 1896, was 100,000. The number of persons on the pension rolls at the close of the year ending June 30, 1897, was 100,000. The number of persons on the pension rolls at the close of the year ending June 30, 1898, was 100,000.

#### The Eleventh Census.

The completion of the eleventh census is now in the hands of the commissioner of labor. The total population of the United States at the close of the year ending June 30, 1890, was 62,949,291. The total population of the United States at the close of the year ending June 30, 1895, was 62,949,291. The total population of the United States at the close of the year ending June 30, 1896, was 62,949,291.

#### Exports of the United States.

The secretary of agriculture, in his report, reviews the operations of his department for the last fiscal year. He states that the exports of the United States for the year ending June 30, 1895, were \$1,000,000,000. The exports of the United States for the year ending June 30, 1896, were \$1,000,000,000. The exports of the United States for the year ending June 30, 1897, were \$1,000,000,000.

#### Usefulness of the Weather Bureau.

The amount appropriated for the Weather Bureau was \$1,000,000. The amount appropriated for the Weather Bureau was \$1,000,000. The amount appropriated for the Weather Bureau was \$1,000,000. The amount appropriated for the Weather Bureau was \$1,000,000.

#### Bureau of Animal Industry Inquiries.

The scientific inquiries of the Bureau of Animal Industry have progressed steadily during the year. Much tuberculosis and melioid have been found in the cattle of the United States. The Bureau of Animal Industry has been working to prevent the spread of these diseases. The Bureau of Animal Industry has been working to prevent the spread of these diseases.

farmers and herds of the country, and to see that the disease is not spread to the other herds. The Bureau of Animal Industry has been working to prevent the spread of these diseases. The Bureau of Animal Industry has been working to prevent the spread of these diseases.

#### The Issue of Bonds.

During the last month the gold reserve in the treasury for the purpose of redeeming the notes of the government circulating now in the hands of the people became so reduced, and its further depletion in the near future seemed so certain, that it became necessary to replenish the reserve and thus maintain public faith in the ability and determination of the government to meet its obligations.

#### An Agricultural Census.

A further important utility in agricultural statistics is found in the collection of the statistics of the supply and demand of the various products of the soil. The statistics of the supply and demand of the various products of the soil are of great importance to the government and to the people.

#### Civil Service Reform.

The advantages to the public service of an adherence to the principles of civil service reform are many and of great importance. The principles of civil service reform are of great importance to the government and to the people.

#### For a National Board of Health.

I am entirely convinced that we ought not to be longer without a National Board of Health. The National Board of Health is of great importance to the government and to the people. The National Board of Health is of great importance to the government and to the people.

#### Report of the Strike Commission.

By virtue of a statute of the United States, passed in 1888, I appointed in July last Hon. Nicholas E. Wordworth, of New York, and Hon. Charles F. Smith, of New York, to investigate the causes of the strike in the coal mines of the United States.

#### Favors Free Coal and Iron.

The tariff act passed at the last session of the congress needs important amendments if it is to be of any benefit to the people. The tariff act needs important amendments if it is to be of any benefit to the people. The tariff act needs important amendments if it is to be of any benefit to the people.

#### About the New Tariff.

With the advent of a new tariff policy, not only calculated to relieve the consumers of our country, but also to protect the interests of our producers, it is of great importance that we should have a tariff which is of great importance to the government and to the people.

#### From Our Exchanges.

An exchange says: "Publish the best paper you can and don't worry about your rivals; the public will take care of them and you also, and the best paper will win. People don't care so much for the editor as they do for the amount and quality of reading matter and general tone of the paper."

#### Good for the Land.

Beans, peas, and grasses leave land richer than they found it. The beans, peas, and grasses leave land richer than they found it. The beans, peas, and grasses leave land richer than they found it.

proceeds across the sea should be turned into American hands. Ship building, which has been protected to a large extent by the tariff, is of great importance to the government and to the people. Ship building is of great importance to the government and to the people.

#### He Heard All the Drolleries of Cleveland, Harrison and Depew.

Cleveland, Harrison and Depew.

#### How Great Men Make Fun—The Merry Little Man Writes About the Amusements of the Wine and Walnut Period.

They do such things and they say such things—at dinners.

During the day after-dinner speakers make their livings with their heads, at night they make speeches with their hearts. At big dinners you get souls set to Dvorak symphonies. The "innocent me" percolates through the diaphragm of the day-worker and drops out at the joint of the tongue—word by word.

#### Imagine Chauncey M. Depew, president of the New York Central railroad, cracking jokes, even in his mind, during business hours.

He dare not. They would pop like torpedoes all about the track and result finally in a general wreck from end to end of the Vanderbilt system.

#### Not President Depew thinks no trides "dinner hours." If he do, Col. Duval smother them in committee, and they die a deserved death.

But, oh, what a difference in the evening!

#### Dr. Depew then pulls down the blind on President Depew and gives Chauncey a chance. Thus, at dinners, he comes to be "Our Chauncey."

Gen. Horace Porter has wit, humor, memory, but he lacks the magnetism and "go" of "Chauncey."

#### Dr. Depew's great power lies in his power for trotting up the right word at the winning time, as when at a late hour one evening he compared himself to the chamois because he found himself continually going from jag to jag.

Of all dinners, those of the Clover Club stand unique for sparkle. It is hard to describe a Clover Club dinner—might as well try to bottle up electricity. The company is a group of geyers. Moses P. Handy, a former president of the club—the gentleman who gave publicity to the world's fair—is a prince of geyers. By the by, he is the best dinner chairman I ever met.

#### One night at the Clover Club in Philadelphia Handy arose, with Senator Jones, of Nevada, sitting near, and after having graphically outlined the attractive personality of that silver magnate by way of introduction, I noticed even that veteran of the upper house squirming and reddening in his seat, knowing well the guy guns that would be turned upon him as soon as he got upon his pins. He was visibly affected for the worse, but not more so than another gentleman, for no sooner had Handy worked the senator up almost to the starting point than he said: "Notwithstanding such seductive talent within reach, we can peg a hole higher by calling upon Col. Thomas Ochiltree, of Earth, who will now address you." It is needless to say that both gentlemen looked as if they had just been shot out by mistake from Zalinski's dynamite gun on the Nietheroy and missed the mark.

#### And it came to pass in that time that the said Ochiltree had had his leg broken by the Pennsylvania railroad. He was suing the railroad because his leg was broken—or he was broke—one or the other. The officials all knew of this, and yet loved him. One of these officials was present. Col. Ochiltree had been using crutches in order to keep the leg from healing while the suit was in progress. But it was foolishly suspected that he was merely doing the litigious limb. For one day, on seeing some pretty young lady friends across Chestnut street, he dropped his crutches, 'twas said, and went with a skip to greet them. When the colonel was called upon, the Pennsylvania officials remarked: Colonel, where are your crutches?"

#### "Under the table, where you will be before the dinner is over," and the scorer marked up a carom for the colonel against a goose-egg for the Pennsylvania potentate.

Among the gentlemen at that dinner were Charles Emory Smith, Gen. M. G. Bunn, E. Burd Grubb, Edwin S. Stuart, John Russell Young, C. R. Deacon, A. K. McClure, James H. Levering, Henry H. Bingham, Clayton McMichael, William M. Singler, Frank Thomson, Albert G. Hetherington, J. William White and scores of famous guests from outside of Philadelphia.

#### Col. Ingersoll came in late, when Gov. Bunn, catching sight of him, exclaimed in the midst of the decorated and delicious surroundings: "Ah, colonel, this is heaven, no place for you here."

The colonel blushed up to where the roots of his hair ought to be, and was conspicuous for his silence, whether it was because he felt out of place in heaven, I don't know. He may go there yet in spite of himself.

#### Mr. Cleveland, also, was there. The guy was put out on him, but Mr. Cleveland was on his mettle and made one of the best speeches of his life.

Col. Cockerill came up for his share. But the colonel has been everything from drummer-boy in Sherman's army to editor in New York city, and with all his modesty, is a match even for Handy.

#### Col. Cockerill is a dark horse for Depew's place as a dinner speaker, should Depew go first. But evidently the doctor is not anticipating any such thing. For at a press club dinner given to Cockerill five years ago Dr. Depew said in closing his remarks: "I trust that Col. Cockerill may enjoy a long life and that I may live to pronounce his funeral oration."

Senator Hill said a felicitous thing that night when in making the request to follow instead of precede Dr. Depew on the programme, he remarked that "the state of New York ought not to overshadow the United States and be deferred to Mr. Depew." (Mr. Depew was then mentioned as a presidential possibility.)

#### At a dinner given by W. J. Arkell to the newspaper men at Mt. McGregor

## WILDER WITH THE WITS.

It was understood that there should be no remarks except by President Harrison, who was the guest of honor, to be followed by some knock-knocks by myself.

I never enjoyed a dinner so little, though it was in the middle of the day. I rose the president and made an impressive speech. The words kept buzzing in my ears. "Next comes his ribs; what'll he say. Oh, what'll he say?"

In came Mr. Grogan. Then the president drifted to the death of Gen. Grant at that place—how eloquent he was on this point, but at the close. "All the air a solemn stillness held." Mirth of any kind was dead to the world.

Then came calls for me; but his ribs refused to get up. "You're a clump, said one friend." "What's the matter with you?" said another. After all was over the president approached me and said: "I didn't expect to speak of Gen. Grant's death, but I knew your good taste would prevent you from saying anything of a jocular nature after I had done so."

By the bye! President Harrison could not be put down as a humorist, as I found out before the trip was ended. The party were going down the mountain to Saratoga in a special car. When walking down the aisle to where Mr. Harrison was sitting I said: "Mr. President, I am more than glad to have had you along on this jaunt. You will understand that a lot of people, a band of music and militia will be waiting to greet me at Saratoga. Of course, I don't like the crush, but I thought I might miss you, and simply came to say, that in case I do, good-by."

Not a smile! I went down the aisle to my seat feeling myself touching the floor with a thud at every step. At Saratoga I hurried to a landan and ordered to be driven rapidly to a private hotel so as to escape the great demonstration to the president. "Get along as quickly as you can," I said to the driver, and "the got"—through the band and the soldiers, who made way until we were blocked. Then formed the president's line; the way was opened and I found myself heading the line, much to my own discomfort, though I was hailed by many friends, one of whom said afterward at the hotel: "You are a good fellow to work up an ad., of which, however, I had no idea, as the very contrary was my intention."

Long live dinner!

Merrily yours,

MARSHALL P. WILDER.

#### Fear in Birds.

This may be a fitting place to glance at the instinct of fear in birds. Mr. Hudson does not accept without more than the proverbial grain of salt the Darwinian theory that birds instinctively fear man, and that the instinct is hereditary. We note in this matter, as in many others, Mr. Hudson's capacity for looking at things as they exist, and his unwillingness to square unusual or exceptional phenomena with preconceived ideas and ready-made theories, even when widely accepted by eminent scientists. He boldly faces the inexplicable, and has no fear of being declared unorthodox. He objects to Darwin's theory on the ground that the growth of an hereditary instinct of fear would require more time than the theory provides for. "Instincts practically endure forever, and are not presumably acquired with such extraordinary facility." Shyness in birds, he thinks, is the result of persecution, and young birds learn the habit from their parents. This persecution is not necessarily persecution by man; it may be by other birds. Mr. Hudson often found birds in the desert, to whom the human form was almost unknown, shyer than in the vicinity of human dwellings. Young domestic birds are tamer than old ones, evincing little if any instinctive fear of man. Suspicion has its root in the strangeness of an object, or in experience of man's destructive power; confidence springs out of familiarity, and experience of man's kindness. Fear of man is an associated feeling.—[London Quarterly.

#### Paper Bicycle Tires.

Paper tires for bicycles are proposed and some have even been made, and are claimed to possess some advantages as compared with the rubber tire. It is said that in the preparation of the paper stock ingredients are added which are calculated to insure the requisite elasticity, durability and firmness. The method of drawing out a paper tube, whether it be the size needed to circle around a bicycle wheel or something smaller, is an old one. In this new application, however, the uniting of the two ends is effected by a new and simple method, one end being enlarged and shaved off on its exterior and put into the other half, and a special adhering glutinous substance is used in making the joint tight to the greatest possible degree. Hair is employed in place of interior linings and air is forced into the hollow of the tube before the union is made, a special instrument being used so that the packing is uniform. While the life of a rubber tire is two seasons, as many as five are claimed for those made of paper. It is argued, too, that thousands of bicycles which are now supplied with hard or cushioned tires because of the expense of pneumatic, and which would be fitted with pneumatics if a cheap and durable one were available, will find the paper tire to fill the need.—[Atlanta Constitution.

Canada offers big inducements to Norwegian colonists to settle in the northwest.

The Government of Victoria owns and operates the railroads in the colony.

Australia produced \$5,000,000 more gold than any other country last year.